

INTRODUCTION

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Welcome, Karibu, Bienvenue, Ahlan wa Sahlan, to the Proceedings of the 37th Annual IAMSLIC Conference and the 5th AFRIAMSLIC Conference which was held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, 16th – 21st of October, 2011. The theme was: “Information Safari: Discovering and Sharing Resources”.

We may be separated by geographic distances, many cultures and beliefs, but we were brought together at this conference to share our knowledge and experiences. This was the first IAMSLIC meeting in Africa, a very historic occasion ; it was also the first joint IAMSLIC & AFRIAMSLIC meeting, and our AFRIAMSLIC hosts, and resort & event hosts, were very welcoming, warm, gracious, and pleased to have us meet in this wonderful continent. We all hope that this was the beginning of many more conferences taking place in Africa.

I hope you will enjoy reading the papers from your IAMSLIC colleagues who all come together for an exciting adventure of sharing and learning. We had chosen the theme of “Information Safari: Discovering and Sharing Resources,” and our speakers and presenters dazzled, informed and entertained us with presentations ranging from collecting and taming gray literature, marketing marine information, populating and utilizing the Aquatic Commons, to using new technologies to collect, share, and give access to an incredible array of resources.

The five days of meetings, workshops, presentations, and networking time, started with a very informative and enlightening tour of Stone Town and an impressive welcome reception in the charming and exotic Zanzibar Beach Resort. On the first conference day we were treated to an exciting Welcome address by the Honorable Minister Haroun Ali Suleiman, Ministry of Labour, Economic Empowerment and Cooperatives, and with a Keynote speech by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, University of Dar es Salaam, Professor Yunus Mgaya, which were broadcast on their local television station that evening. The three days of presentations, with tasty and fresh lunches overlooking the beach, and fun breaks to network, bid on Guin Auction items, and talk to our sponsors, were topped off with a luxuriously memorable banquet in the Melia Resort.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors, especially Inter-Research, ProQuest, and the Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA); and of course our host institution, the University of Dar es Salaam. The charming and caring representatives of these companies and institutions informed and entertained us and helped make this Zanzibar conference a most memorable one.